

**Preliminary Amendment for Continuation under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 of Application
Serial No. 09/277,399 filed March 26, 1999**

nozzle.

A2 19. (New) The liquid distributor of claim 18 wherein the inner wall of the nozzle is comprised of a material resistant to the adherence of solids which would block the flow of liquid through the nozzle.

20. (New) The liquid distributor of claim 18 wherein the liquid distributor is in the form of a channel distributor.

21. (New) The liquid distributor of claim 19 wherein the inner wall of the nozzle is made of plastic.

22. (New) The distributor of claim 19 wherein said drainage pipe extends upwards from the bottom of the distributor and comprises an inlet opening above the bottom of the distributor.

09855002-051401 204750-20055860 23. (New) A liquid distributor comprising a hood, with at least one opening, said hood covering said inlet opening of the drainage pipe against the direct inflow of liquid.

24. (New) The distributor of claim 23 wherein one of the openings of said hood is a horizontally encircling annular gap.

25. (New) The distributor of claim 24 wherein said annular gap is interrupted by webs between the upper and lower parts of said hood.

26. (New) The distributor of claim 23 wherein a plurality of bores, acting as openings are arranged in a horizontally encircling line around said hood.

27. (New) The distributor of claim 23 wherein at least one bore is in the top of said hood.

**Preliminary Amendment for Continuation under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 of Application
Serial No. 09/277,399 filed March 26, 1999**

A2 28. (New) The distributor of claim 23 wherein the area enclosed by said hood is divided, by an annular inner wall having at least one opening, such that the inlet of said drainage pipe is situated within said annular inner wall.

29. (New) A liquid distributor having a main channel and tapering drainage pipes wherein a preliminary distributor is fitted into the main channel of said distributor and the base of said preliminary distributor extends over the drainage pipes in the form of domes.

30. (New) The distributor of claim 19 wherein a sieve is inserted into said preliminary distributor between the inlet and outlet thereof.